

Multiple Myeloma

Group IV

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Recommendations

- Research advances and gaps:
 - What are the advances in research on multiple myeloma?
 - Well-established risk factors: age, race, gender, MGUS
 - Limited new knowledge (obesity/BMI)
 - Limited number of new publications on a variety of risk factors (occupational, pesticide exposure, medication history, genetic factors)

Recommendations

- Research advances and gaps:
 - What are the highest research priorities for multiple myeloma?
 - Racial disparities in risk
 - MGUS (etiology, progression)

Recommendations

- Research advances and gaps:
 - What scientific gaps need to be addressed?
 - Racial disparities in risk
 - MGUS (etiology, progression)
 - Genetics/heritability
 - “Basic” epidemiology
 - Gene-environment interactions

Recommendations

- Research obstacles and challenges:
 - What are the main obstacles in research on multiple myeloma?
 - Small numbers
 - Limited enrollment of minorities in studies and biobanks
 - No ongoing large “new-generation” studies
 - Limited number of “mature” studies with biospecimens

Recommendations

- Research obstacles and challenges:
 - How can we overcome such obstacles?
 - Initiation of new studies with emphasis on inclusion of minorities
 - Look for opportunities to collaborate with potential sources of minority populations (VA, Kaiser, Department of Defense, etc.)
 - Collaboration with biorepositories, clinical groups
 - Consortia (case-control, cohort)

Recommendations

- Collaborations:
 - What type of collaborations are most fitting for research on multiple myeloma?
 - Consortia of pooled studies
 - Development of common protocols for subject recruitment and data collection across multiple institutes (to facilitate pooling of data)
 - Explore existing resources for access to new patient populations (i.e., better-quality international tumor registries, clinical groups, foundations)

Recommendations

- Collaborations:
 - What are potential collaboration opportunities in multiple myeloma research?
 - Case-control and cohort consortia getting started
 - Foundation resources (MMRF and others)
 - To be explored: VA, HMOs, Department of Defense, clinical groups, biorepositories

Recommendations

- Collaborations:
 - How do we facilitate research collaborations in multiple myeloma?

Recommendations

- Next steps:
 - What do you see as the next steps to foster research on multiple myeloma (i.e., by NCI, investigators, advocacy groups, etc.)?
 - Need mechanism to obtain additional funds to add new studies to funded pooled projects
 - Work out issues related to whole genome association studies in consortia
 - Continue facilitating communication across institutions/disciplines, consortium meetings, etc.